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- 11. The process of claim 10, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprising thermoplastic rubber is pretreated solely with the plasma jet.
- 12. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises injection-molded, foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate that has been roughened or swelled mechanically or with a solvent before treatment with the plasma jet.

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice, and enter new claims 6-12. The subject matter of the new claims is described the specification at page 3, line 25 to page 5, line 19, as well as in the original claims. The specification now includes a cross-reference to related applications and headings appropriate to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

The new claims better claim the full literal and equivalent scope and breadth of subject matter disclosed in the application, notwithstanding applicants' belief that the original claims, drafted for examination in the German and European Patent Offices, would have been allowable but for minor matters of form permitted in German or European practice but objected to in the U.S.P.T.O. The new claims find support in the application independent of the original claims and therefore are not believed to constitute narrowing amendments to the original claims within the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., No. 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

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Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and examination of the application. If any fees are due to enter this paper that have not been accounted for, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn E.J. Murphy

Reg. No. (33,539) Attorney Applicant (610) 278-4926

Henkel Corporation Patent Department 2500 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 200 Gulph Mills, PA 19406